

## CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A winterizing seal for a pool skimmer having a housing with an opening thereinto and a passageway extending therethrough, said seal comprising:

(a) a cover plate dimensioned and configured to cover the opening and having a support portion dimensioned to extend through the opening and into the passageway to prevent water flow through the skimmer passageway;

(b) resiliently deformable sealing means extending about and mounted on said cover plate support portion; and

(c) means pressing on said sealing means to effect deformation thereof into sealing contact with the passageway side walls of the skimmer to provide a water resistant seal between said cover plate and the skimmer passageway.

2. The seal in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said pressing means includes a compression plate dimensioned and configured to provide a peripheral portion which bears on said sealing means to press it outwardly toward the side walls of the skimmer passageway.

3. The seal in accordance with Claim 2 further including means for coupling said cover plate and compression plate.

4. The seal in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said sealing means is a gasket and said compressing plate includes a rib configured to bear against said gasket.

5. The seal in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said gasket and said rib have cooperating beveled surface portions.

6. The seal in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said gasket support portion is configured to support gaskets of different thicknesses.

7. A skimmer/seal assembly comprising:

(a) a skimmer having a skimmer opening and a skimmer passageway extending therethrough from said pool opening, said passageway having side walls; and

(b) a winterizing seal removably mounted in said skimmer passageway, said seal including (i) a cover plate dimensioned and configured to cover said skimmer opening and having a support portion extending through the opening and into said passageway, (ii) resiliently deformable sealing means mounted on and extending about said cover plate support portion, and (iii) pressing means pressing on said sealing means to effect deformation thereof into sealing contact with said side walls of said skimmer passageway to provide a water resistant seal between said cover plate and said skimmer passageway.

8. The skimmer/seal assembly in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said pressing means includes a compression plate dimensioned and configured to provide a peripheral portion which bears on said sealing means to press it outwardly toward the side walls of the skimmer passageway.

9. The seal in accordance with Claim 8 including coupling means for coupling said cover plate and compression plate

10. The seal in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said sealing means is a gasket and said compression plate includes a rib configured to bear against said gasket.

11. The seal in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said gasket and said rib have cooperating beveled surface portions.

12. The seal in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said gasket support portion is configured to support gaskets of different thickness.